



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 106

TO: Dr. Laura Buelow – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email
Matt Wilkening – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

FROM: Kris McCaig – Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

DATE: May 5, 2015

FILE NO: 01-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 106 Month Ending April 2015

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Phase 2 Sediment Study - Field sampling activities were completed on October 24, 2013. Validated field sediment and porewater chemistry data have been reviewed and approved by EPA.

Short-term bioassay tests (i.e., 10-day *Chironomus dilutes* and 28-day *Hyalella azteca*) were completed for all batches on April 24, 2014. Bioassay test data and analytical chemistry data for porewater and sediment samples collected during the short term bioassay tests have been loaded into the project database; chemistry data have been reviewed by EPA and TAI is in receipt of several letters from EPA's detailing the review. TAI responded to EPA's review comments on March 3, 2015.

Long-term bioassay tests (i.e., *Chironomus dilutes* and 42-day *Hyalella azteca*) were initiated on February 12, 2015 and at the time of writing, the in-life portion of all tests for all three batches were complete as of May 4, 2015.

As detailed in the EPA-approved technical memorandum describing how the backscatter electron microscopy (BSEM) will be performed on archived Phase 2 Study, samples were shipped from ALS to RJ Lee Group in December 2014 and the lab began analyses in January 2015. On February 24, 2015 TAI submitted to EPA, RJ Lee Group's Example Report for UCR Phase 2 Sediments BSEM analysis. This report was provided as an example to illustrate how the BSEM data will be presented, and is not an initial data delivery. On April 9, 2015 EPA provided comments to TAI on the example report for use in completing the report which will be included in the Phase 2 Sediment Study Draft Data

Summary and Data Gap Report. BSEM analysis on all samples will be completed in May 2015.

As required in “Resolution A” in the January 18, 2013 letter from EPA which detailed the resolution to the TAI’s dispute of EPA’s comments on the Phase 2 Sediment Study quality assurance project plan, TAI submitted the Draft Chemicals of Potential Concern Refinement Document to EPA on March 31, 2015. We wish to confirm that in addition to distributing the document per the RI/FS document distribution, it is also accessible to registered users via the secure domain of the project website (www.ucr-rifs.com).

Bossburg Flat Beach Refined Sediment and Soil Study – The EPA-approved Final QAPP was signed and distributed as per the RI/FS document distribution list in January 2015. On February 25, 2015 TAI received from EPA, ancillary comments on the Final QAPP and in response drafted Amendment No. 1 to the QAPP. EPA reviewed the draft amendment and the revised document was approved by EPA on March 24, 2015. The Final Amendment No.1 was distributed to the as per the RI/FS document distribution list on March 25, 2015. Field sampling activities commenced on April 7, 2015 and are expected to be complete in early May.

Soil Study – Field sampling activities commenced on September 8, 2014 and were completed on October 23, 2014. Chemistry analysis of the incremental composite soil samples is complete, validated data was submitted to EPA and EPA completed their quality assurance review. The Draft Soil Study Data Summary and Data Gap Report was submitted to EPA on April 27, 2015.

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study – TAI is in receipt of EPA’s August 19, 2013 Expected Level of Effort For Sampling Benthic Macroinvertebrate Tissue, Upper Columbia River paper and submitted the Draft Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study to EPA on November 18, 2014 for review and comment.

Human Health – TAI received from EPA, the draft data analysis report (DAR) for the Recreational Use Survey on January 17, 2014 and submitted comments to EPA on June 11, 2014.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.